

## WASHINGTON.

## The Narrow Republican Majority in the Next House

Unable to be wiped out at Any Time—The Senate Tariff Bill and Its Chances in the House—Opposition to Naval Confessions.

## CAPITAL NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Clerk Clark, of the House of Representatives, has received the certificates of 253 members-elect to the next House, and has been officially informed that certificates have been issued in all but three Congressional districts. Of the certificates issued, 161 are to Republicans and 192 to Democrats, and of those districts still in doubt, two of them are in West Virginia and one in Tennessee. In all of them the Republican candidates claim majorities on the face of the returns. However, should the Democratic candidates get the certificates their party will not have control, as the Republicans will still have a majority of one and will organize the House. The question is whether it will be one or seven.

Several Republicans who are elected to the next House are in uncertain health. Several whose names are often mentioned are regarded as having a very uncertain future of life. Every indication of ill health in the part of members of the next House is regarded with anxiety and adds another argument to the many advanced in favor of an extra session. This being the case, the candidacy for the Speakership is becoming more heated every day. Of the 193 Republicans who have received certificates of election it is said that Mr. Cannon has forty-nine pledged to vote for him, Mr. Reed thirty-eight, Mr. McKinley twenty-three and Mr. Burrows twenty-two. There are sixteen unpledged Southern members. The other fifteen members are scattered between prospective candidates. There is no selling for whom they will vote.

Representative Benton McMillan, of Tennessee, says that the opinion expressed in some quarters that the House Committee on Ways and Means, of which he is a member, will hold back the tariff bill when it reaches the House from the Senate is an entire misconception of the purposes of his associates. "We will act upon the bill," said he, "when it reaches us, as promptly as possible and will give the House an opportunity to discuss it, and if it reaches us in season the people will have an opportunity to understand fully the differences between the two Houses on that subject."

"We are of the opinion," said Mr. McMillan, "that the Democratic party is in better heart and in better condition than it has ever been after suffering a defeat. Wherever the tariff question was thoroughly discussed there we made gains, even in the supposed strongholds of protection. Had as much attention been given to the tariff question in the rural districts as was the case in the cities, the result might have been different. It will be the lesson from this day on until it wins, and then its opponents will have to give up the fight, as they did from 1852 to 1890, only to renew it again in a new guise."

There is a strong probability that when the nominations of Commodore Belknap and Harmony are sent to the Senate there will be trouble about their confirmation. There will not be a vacancy until March 25, the date of the retirement of Admiral Luce, and there are a number of officers who contend that previous to that date no nominations should be sent in because there are no vacancies. The political friends of the Pacific coast are not very favorably disposed toward Commodore Belknap because he ran the Mare Island yard independently of their wishes. There is no doubt they will do all they can to defeat his nomination, but navy people believe he will eventually be confirmed.

## The Oklahoma Boomers.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 31.—An enthusiastic meeting of Oklahoma boomers from towns of Southern Kansas was held here Saturday at the headquarters of "Pawnee Bill." It was decided to start February 1, as by that time it would be known what action Congress would take on the Springer bill. An address to the Government and people as to their plans and purposes was ordered published. "Pawnee Bill" produced 5,000 letters of inquiry from all over the United States, and said that the companies now have enrolled over 15,000 people who will be ready to move at the date named. All will meet at Oklahoma City and proceed upon the country in a body. Address from the Territory are that an engagement took place Saturday between a party of Texas settlers and scouts of the cattlemen. Five of the former and four of the latter were injured, but the boomers were not stopped.

## Death of a Nervy Brakeman.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 31.—Edward Camden, a young brakeman on the Norfolk & Western railroad, while engaged in coupling cars, slipped and two wheels passed over both thighs, crushing them to a jelly. To extricate him both wheels had to be run over his body again. Then, before he was got out, four cars broke loose from the train and ran over his mangled limbs. He was fully conscious all the time and did not make a cry of pain or a complaint. When he was at last got out, he quietly removed a chew of tobacco from his mouth and threw it away, with the remark that he would never take one again. When the surgeons amputated the shreds of his mangled legs he took no anesthetic. Up to the time of death, some hours after, he never uttered a complaint.

## Salaries of 700 People Stolen.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Thomas Vines, assistant timekeeper of the Adams & Westlake Manufacturing Company, disappeared suddenly Saturday, taking with him the week's salaries of 700 men and boys. The amount of money carried off about \$8,000. It was done up in 700 packages, ready for delivery to the employees. Vines does not usually handle the money, but apparently foresaw that he would on this occasion, and had an express wagon in waiting. An unusually large number of police and detectives were set to work almost immediately after Vines' disappearance, but he has not yet been arrested.

## Embarrassed \$63,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—The details of the losses supposed to have been sustained by various San Francisco and eastern business houses through the mysterious departure from this city of Charles F. Merie, president of the California Bone Meal Packing Company, and local agent for N. K. Fairbanks & Co., the Chicago lead dealers, are difficult to obtain, and will probably not be definitely known before the meeting of the directors of the fertilizing company to-day, but the latest estimate places the total losses at about \$63,000.

## What Constitutes an Assignment.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Judge Pendergast's decision as to whether the Lindauer failure was in effect an assignment or not, was delivered Saturday afternoon. The court holds that "when a man was insolvent and voluntarily disposed of all or substantially disposed of all his property, or created a trust for the benefit of his creditors, such acts constituted a voluntary assignment, beyond all question or cavil."

## ANOTHER STEAMER BURNED.

The Passengers on the Bristol, of the Old Colony Line, Have a Narrow Escape from Cremation—The Vessel Proves a Total Loss.

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 31.—The steamer Bristol, of the Old Colony line, which arrived from New York about 2:30 o'clock Sunday morning, was found to be on fire at 6:30 a. m. and in a short time was destroyed. No one was injured, though a few Newport passengers who had remained in their state-rooms to await a convenient hour for rising, had narrow escapes, and some of them lost all their clothing. All the baggage, however, was saved. The steamer's freight had also been landed before the fire broke out. The Fall River and Boston passengers had all departed, the last train leaving just as the alarm was given.

The fire started near the kitchen and spread very rapidly. The fire department of Newport, together with the police force, exerted themselves in every possible way to check the flames, but the joinder work of the state-rooms, saloon and stairways was as dry as tinder, and draughts through the steamer caused a fearfully rapid spread of the flames, so that before the city fire department arrived there was a mass of fire sweeping her almost from stem to stern.

Some of the passengers still on board did not understand the meaning of the first alarm, and were only aroused by the crackling of the flames near by. All succeeded in escaping, but some with only a portion of their clothing. One man with two little children, who occupied a state-room, was awakened by the sound of crackling flames and barely escaped with his little ones wrapped, but with their clothing in his hands. All of the personal baggage of the passengers was saved.

When the steamers arrived the upper decks and center of the steamer were a mass of flames, which gave out such intense heat as to greatly impede the work of the firemen. The flames had gained such headway that they could only be fought from the wharf, while the flying sparks endangered buildings on the docks and other vessels in the vicinity. A dozen streams were soon pouring into the flames with lit in apparent effect for over an hour, while other streams were thrown upon surrounding property. The steamer Pilgrim, which was in the greatest danger, with some difficulty gotten safely out of the range of the flames and was kept drenched with streams of water from her own apparatus.

In the slip to the north lay the freight steamer City of New Bedford, which was to be kept constantly drenched, and when the fire broke out about noon, but the flames were extinguished before serious damage was done. Shortly before eight o'clock the flames were under such control as to permit a few firemen to board the steamer and work from outside the guards of the lower and second decks. At 8:15 the port smokestack fell in and soon after the starboard smokestack fell and the starboard side fell about noon. Two firemen were injured. The crew lost all their clothing.

General Manager Kendrick states that the insurance of \$300,000 on the Bristol was probably covered by the loss. The boat was twenty-two years old, but had been partially rebuilt and was one of the finest inland steamers afloat. The company has several other steamers and traffic will not be interrupted.

## Steamer Burned at Her Dock.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The harbor fire boats and several city engines were summoned last evening to extinguish a fire in the hold of the steamer Mexico, which was anchored off Day street in the North River. The Mexico arrived Saturday from Havana with a cargo of hemp and tobacco. The fire was discovered early in the evening. The crew tried to quench it without assistance, and it had thus made great headway in the inflammable cargo before a general alarm was sent out. Half a dozen firemen were overcome by smoke while fighting the fire, but all were recovered. It was finally found impossible to save the cargo and in order to save the vessel the cargo was flooded, thus ruining any part of it that had escaped the flames. The amount of loss can not be learned at present.

## Arrested for Killing Her Husband.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 31.—Leonard Wetzel died Friday afternoon from the supposed effects of an assault made by his wife. It was discovered that he had been shot in the abdomen. Detectives were put to work on the case and Saturday night arrested his wife, charging her with murdering her husband. She told several conflicting stories about a revolver owned by Wetzel which gave the officers a clue. Wetzel owned considerable real estate. He and his wife—though living in the same house—quarreled constantly and each cooked food in separate rooms. Wetzel drank hard and squandered every cent he could get for liquor, leaving his wife at times without money to purchase necessities.

## The New Oil Refining Process.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Important developments are expected before long in the process lately discovered by Prof. Pitt, of the Buffalo High School, for refining Ohio petroleum, but at present the leading capitalists concerned in the venture are reticent about what is being done. Mr. G. H. Van Vlack, who holds one of the largest interests in the process, says it will be a month or two before anything can be made public, but the experiments are progressing favorably and the process is likely to prove a success. By this process Ohio petroleum, which is now only used for fuel, will be refined to equal the best Pennsylvania oil.

## Bald Knobbers Released from Prison.

OKLAHOMA, Mo., Dec. 31.—John and Wiley Matthews, two of the four condemned Bald Knobbers, and W. P. Halbeneseben, Frank Johnson, William Bedford, Thomas Rooney and William Sassen, five train robbers, escaped from jail here Friday night. Some at present unknown person or persons, from the outside, cut through the brick wall of the prison, unlocked the cells and released the prisoners. Dave Walker, the leader of the Bald Knobbers, and his son William, also under sentence to hang, refused to leave.

## Lannon's Challenge to Jackson.

BOSTON, Dec. 31.—Captain Cook, of the Police News, has sent the following to the California Athletic Club: "Joe Lannon challenges Jackson to fight to a finish under the same conditions that governed the Jackson-McAusliffe battle, except that the loser be allowed \$500 for expenses. In the event of the California club offering a purse for Lannon and Jackson the former will want a fair length of time in which to train."

## Score in the Pittsburgh Walking Match.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 31.—The seventy-two-hour go-as-you-please race ended at twelve o'clock Saturday night with the following scores: Golden 430, Noremac 418, Cox 357, Moore 262, Englewood 250, Guerrero 231, Poff 135, McClelland 118, Hart 85, Green 60, Nolan 45.

## Two Boys Drowned.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 31.—James Machen and Nathan Glibbert, aged nine and fourteen years, were skating on the bayou Sunday afternoon. The ice broke, precipitating the boys into the water, and both were drowned.

## JOKING JOURNALISTS.

Great Excitement Caused Among Mexicans by a Sensational Story About an Alleged Uprising Against the Government.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 31.—Newspapers published in Chihuahua, Mexico, December 28 and received here Saturday, contained thrilling accounts of an alleged Polish uprising in the City of Mexico. The story, in brief, was that the priests in the City of Mexico, angered at the alleged unfavorable attitude and policy of the Diaz government towards the church, headed an insurrection for the purpose of overthrowing the government and won over to their side 15,000 government troops; that President Diaz led the loyal troops against the insurgents and after a bloody battle completely routed them, and that 337 priests were immediately shot and about as many more had been condemned to death. This gory narrative purported to have been received by the Chihuahua papers by wire from the City of Mexico.

Upon investigation the terrible tale turns out to have been a hoax perpetrated by the Chihuahua papers upon their readers. December 28 is All Innocent's day, and is celebrated in Mexico the same as April 1 in the United States. The brilliant journalistic mind at Chihuahua evolved the plan of manufacturing and publishing bogus dispatches and the innocents were duly deluded thereby. Intelligent Mexican citizens of Juarez pronounce the Chihuahua performance a silly and disgraceful piece of work. Moreover the right of the press to manufacture "sensational news" vilifying, ridiculing, or misrepresenting the government is not yet so fully recognized in Mexico as in the United States, and it is hinted that the perpetrators of the Chihuahua hoax will be called to account by the Mexican government in some way.

## CHOKED OFF.

Mrs. Lucy Parsons Attempts to Make an Impetuous Speech Before a Socialistic Meeting, but is Suppressed by the Chairman.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—About 400 people, or as many as could crowd into Waverly Hall, attended a meeting of the Socialistic Labor party, called for the transaction of business and the promotion of Socialistic doctrines. Mrs. Lucy Parsons was present, and made her speech in the same hall which they closed against her a week ago. Inspector Bonfield's men were in the hall in citizens' dress, but did not interfere with the proceedings. A resolution was adopted unanimously imploring the aid of the press and citizens generally to the end that the humble citizen as well as the politician may enjoy all the rights guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Tommy Morgan, a local leader of the Socialists, made a very conservative speech containing many statements to which Mrs. Parsons took exception. She said she could not sit quietly and hear it stated that those who are dead and silent in their tombs had anything to do with the throwing of the Haymarket bomb, though in the war against tyrants all things are justifiable. She predicted that before peace could be had in a society like that in this country rivers of blood would have to run. When she got to this point the chairman interrupted her and said time was up.

## Shot His Wife and Suicided.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Joseph Solomon, aged forty-seven, a traveling broker in lace and linens, shot and fatally wounded his wife aged twenty-nine, and then shot himself dead in the street in front of their residence, 111 East Ninetieth street, Sunday evening. Solomon was a drinking man, possessed a violent temper and was extremely jealous of his beautiful wife, whom he often abused. Last night, after a quarrel with her, he went to the bath room and after taking a bath himself ordered her to do the same. She refused and he tried to force her into the room. She evidently feared some worse violence, and breaking away, fled to the street. Solomon partly dressed himself, ran down stairs and shot her twice in the breast and arm and then shot himself in the head and dropped dead. Mrs. Solomon was taken to a hospital where it was not expected that she would survive the night.

## Death of a Prominent Southerner.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 31.—Hon. Moses Mordecai died Sunday evening at his residence in this city, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. His disease was ossification of the heart. Mr. Mordecai had been blind for eight years. He was born in Charleston, S. C., where he resided until 1865, when he came to his home in Baltimore. He was United States Senator from South Carolina for the two terms immediately preceding the war. During his residence in South Carolina Mr. Mordecai was a steamboat owner and carried United States mails anterior to the first secession, and there is now an unsettled claim in his name pending against the Government for that work. Before the Rebellion he was accounted a millionaire, and although the war depleted his fortune considerably he was possessed of a great deal of property at the time of his death. His wife, whom he married sixty years ago, survives him.

## Treasury Department Employees Arrested.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Since the treasury authorities learned that notes sent in for redemption and canceled had been stolen and again circulated, the secret service detectives have been making every possible effort to discover the thief. Saturday they arrested three messengers—one white and two colored—employed in the department, two of them in the redemption division. They were locked up in separate cells. Sunday night they were questioned. This examination resulted in the liberation of the white man and one of the negroes and the third was taken back and locked in his cell again. The authorities say that they have not yet completed their investigation and they intimate that there will be some more arrests. The arrests are made with a great deal of secrecy, the names of the prisoners not being entered on the records.

## Two Miners Killed.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Dec. 31.—Jacob Dinolovits and John Dungan tamped a shot in the Big Mountain mine Saturday preparatory to arranging a blast. The fuse was accidentally lighted by a spark and an explosion ensued. Dinolovits was instantly killed and Dungan's back was broken and he died in a few hours. Both were unmarried.

## Saloon-Keeper Whipped by White Caps.

LIMA, O., Dec. 31.—John Morrison, proprietor of the only saloon at Rawson, near here, has been repeatedly warned by White Caps to close, but paid no attention to the threats. Saturday night a party of men, masked as White Caps, visited him and after demolishing the saloon whipped him until he begged for mercy and swore he would never go into the saloon business again.

## Ravaged by Fire.

BOTTINGHAM, Pa., Dec. 31.—Fire Sunday morning, originating in McArthur Bros. drug store, destroyed the business portion of this town, causing a loss of \$33,000. The insurance is about \$12,000. Among the buildings destroyed was the post-office and land office.

## DISPUTED ELECTIONS.

All Kinds of Fraud Charged by the Contestants

For Seats in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-first Congress—Narrow Majorities Cause Several Contests.

## THE SEATS IN DISPUTE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Up to this time only one notice of contest has been filed in the office of the clerk of the House. This is the case of Hartshuff against Whiting, the latter being the sitting Democratic member of the Seventh Michigan district. There are twenty-one contests in his indictment, and he charges that votes were cast at wrong places; that aliens voted without restraint; that illegal registration was common, and that persons were compelled to vote the Democratic ticket under threats of personal injury. Mr. Hartshuff lays particular stress upon what he calls the "corruption fund." This includes a contribution of \$2,500 from the National Democratic Committee, \$1,000 given by Mr. Whiting personally, and between \$2,300 and \$1,000 assessed the Federal employees. The latter, Mr. Hartshuff claims, were particularly pernicious in their efforts in Mr. Whiting's behalf.

Quite a number of the cases arise out of the narrow majorities received by some of the successful candidates. Such is the foundation of the contest made by Sydney E. Mudd against Representative Barnes Compton, of the Fifth Maryland district, whose majority has been placed as low as one vote. In the Fourth New Jersey district Samuel Fowler, Democrat, was elected by only seventy-two votes, and N. W. Voorhees will try to overcome this by contest. Congressman Shively, Democrat, of Indiana, was returned by a still smaller majority—less than forty votes—and William A. Hoynes, a Republican rival, will endeavor to secure the seat. As compared with these efforts to overturn a few votes, the contest of T. B. Eaton, a Republican, of Memphis, to oust Congressman James Phelan, seems quite Herculean. Mr. Phelan received 8,000 majority.

Charges of fraud will also be made by F. B. Fowey, a Republican, who was defeated by William F. Farwell in the First Indiana district. For the first time in many years a contested election case is reported from Connecticut, where in the Fourth district Edward R. Seymour, Democrat, will endeavor to unseat Fred R. Mills, Republican.

William Elliott, of Beaufort, S. C., brother of the Episcopal clergyman here, who had a contested case on his hands during this Congress, is again to experience the same trouble.

Other cases which will excite interest are those of T. G. Phelps, Republican, against Thomas J. Clunie, Democrat, in the Fifth California district, and John Baker, who defeated "Bill" Morrison and who in turn succumbed to W. S. Forman. Judge Waddill, of Richmond, Va., will contest with George D. Wise the honor of representing the Third Virginia district. He charges fraud and illegal voting. This long list of cases does not include the West Virginia districts, which are almost certain to be contested. The next Committee on Elections will have its hands full, and will be one of the most important to be appointed by the successor of Mr. Carlisle.

## Death of General Schofield's Wife.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The wife of Major General John M. Schofield, in command of the army of the United States, died Sunday morning at the Richmond Hotel in this city. Mrs. Schofield has not been in good health since her arrival in Washington, some months ago. The attack of illness which resulted in her death was, however, unexpected. She had been suffering from heart disease, complicated with nervous trouble. Saturday night she had a severe attack and three of the late General Sheridan's physicians—Dr. Yarrow, Surgeon O'Reilly and Dr. Lincoln—were called in. They were unable to do anything for the patient and she died yesterday morning between five and six o'clock. Mrs. Schofield was the daughter of Prof. Bartlett, formerly professor of philosophy at West Point Military Academy. She was married at the time that General Schofield, then a subordinate, was detailed as instructor at West Point. The remains of Mrs. Schofield will be taken to West Point, where they will be buried on Wednesday next.

## Suffocated in a Burning House.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 31.—At six o'clock Sunday evening fire broke out in the residence of Michael McGuire, partially destroying the building and causing the death of Mary McGuire, a child of eight years. In the front room stood a Christmas tree. One of McGuire's children, in lighting the candles on the tree, fired the tree itself. The flames spread to the building and had gained considerable headway when the fire department arrived. Two adjoining frame buildings were also badly damaged by fire and water. Little Mary McGuire was not missed by her parents until it was impossible for any one to enter the building. The firemen concentrated their efforts to driving the flames back from the front part of the house while Robert McGuire started to rescue the child. He found her lying on the bed, still breathing, but almost suffocated by smoke and heat. She was carried to a physician's office, but expired before restoratives could be applied. The loss by fire is \$5,500; insurance, \$2,700.

## Died from Hydrophobia.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—Police officer Henry Fehle, of this city, died a horrible death from hydrophobia Friday night. Last September while walking his beat he was bitten on the right leg by a dog, but thought nothing of the wound. Wednesday the leg began to swell and Thursday Fehle was taken down with violent symptoms of hydrophobia. He passed from one convulsion into another and finally died in great agony Friday night. Dr. Bernays, who attended him, says the case was genuine hydrophobia.

## Small Pox on a Bank.

BURLINGTON, Ia., Dec. 31.—Considerable excitement was created in this city Saturday by a sensational rumor that the Germania American Savings bank had become insolvent. A number of small depositors withdrew their money in consequence, but the confidence of the public in the soundness of the institution prevented a general run and all fear was allayed before the day's business closed.

## An Insane Princess.

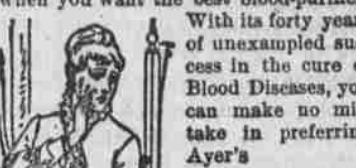
FENLAND, Dec. 31.—During a performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Fenland Opera House Saturday evening Princess Adelbert, of Bavaria, was seized with a violent fit of hysteria, necessitating her removal from the theater. She has since become much worse and it is feared she is insane. The play was continued after the Princess was removed.

## Disastrous Explosion.

WYCKSON, Pa., Dec. 31.—At 7:30 o'clock Sunday evening two kegs of blasting powder exploded, severely injuring seven men, all Polish, and burning four small tenement houses belonging to the H. G. Frick Coke Company. Loss \$3,000. John Pilos is believed to be fatally injured.

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"We have sold Ayer's Sarsaparilla here for over thirty years and always recommend it when asked to name the best blood-purifier."—W. T. McLean, Druggist, Augusta, Ohio.

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